

# Recruiting a Health Education Intern

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Many projects in local public health agencies can benefit from the skills of a health education intern. Washington state has three universities that offer community health education undergraduate degrees—Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University and Western Washington University. Students in these programs take courses in program planning, evaluation and health education methods. They have entry level skills in conducting needs assessment, epidemiology, coalition building, grant writing, social marketing and resource development.

*Here are some helpful tips to consider when recruiting a health education intern:*

- 1 Recruit early.**  
Most internships are during the spring and summer quarters. Students begin looking for sponsors in the fall and winter.
- 2 Consider a stipend.**  
It's not necessary to offer a stipend, but it improves your recruitment potential. A recommended amount is \$500 to \$2,000. When a stipend is not an option consider other incentives, such as providing training opportunities or conference participation.
- 3 Offer challenging opportunities.**  
Give interns work that will apply their skills to real life situations.

*"We taught each other. Our interns dragged us kicking and screaming into the age of the Internet. And we gave them a taste of the real world—the daily challenges, but also the sense of fulfillment that comes from working in public health."*

—Ruth Abad

**4****Know what you're looking for.**

Students have different levels of skill, training and interests.

Try to match the student's skills and interests with your project needs.

**5****Let them teach you a thing or two.**

Recognize that you both have something to gain from this opportunity.

Students have the latest training in health education methods and practice.

You can learn from them as well.

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